

MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

1. SUPREME COURT  GS-2, PRELIMS
2. ME-DAM-ME-PHI FESTIVAL *The Assam Tribune* PRELIMS
3. UNRWA  PRELIMS
4. SOUTH-CHINA SEA  *The Indian* **EXPRESS** GS-2, PRELIMS

SUPREME COURT



CONTEXT

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Diamond Jubilee celebration** of the Supreme Court of India on January 28.

KEY FACTS

- The ceremony took place at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi.
- PM Modi launched citizen-centric information and technology initiatives, including Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR), **Digital Courts 2.0**, and a new website of the Supreme Court.
- PM Modi highlighted the Supreme Court's role in preserving principles of freedom, equality, and justice in India.

- Emphasized the need to capitalize on opportunities in various sectors, including justice.
- PM Modi praised the digitization efforts, including the Chief Justice of India monitoring the **digitization of all courts** in the country.
- PM Modi's address was translated into English in real time **using AI**, highlighting the role of technology in Ease of Justice.

- Urged collective responsibility of citizens towards India's vision of becoming a **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.
- Acknowledged the Supreme Court's significant role in shaping the country's future.
- Mentioned the third phase of the E-Courts Mission Project, with a fund allocation four times more than the second phase.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. The e-court Mission Project is monitored by-

- A. Department of Economic Affairs
- B. Department of Justice
- C. Department of Home
- D. None of the above

ME-DAM-ME-PHI FESTIVAL



CONTEXT

- Me-Dam-Me-Phi is an important festival celebrated by the Tai-Ahom community on **31st January** every year to honor and remember their departed ancestors.

- The festival reflects the concept of ancestor worship shared by the Ahoms and other Tai-origin communities. It is a **manifestation of reverence towards ancestors.**
- During the festival, people worship three Gods: **Grihadam, Dam Changphi, and Me Dam Me Phi, the god of heaven.** Offerings, including homemade wine, mah-prasad, rice with meat and fish, are presented.

- Rituals and customs are intimately performed by family members, often taking place in the kitchen. A pillar known as **Damkhuta** is formed and worshipped with offerings.
- The festival has ancient roots, with Ahom Kings holding prayers on this day to honor victories after wars and to ward off potential dangers.

- **Charaideo**, the first permanent capital of the Ahom kingdom, is a significant location for the festival.
- According to Ahom belief, ancestors transform into gods when an individual's immortal soul merges with the soul of the **Supreme Being**.

PRELIMS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q. The last capital of Ahom Kingdom-

- A. Garhgaon
- B. Rangpur
- C. Charaideo
- D. Jorhat

UNRWA



CONTEXT

- The US and eight other Western countries, which together provided more than half of UNRWA's 2022 budget, have decided to pause funding for the agency. The development could have severe implications for Palestinians in Gaza.

WHAT IS UNRWA?

- **United Nations Relief and Works Agency** for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.
- Founded: 1949, following the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.
- Purpose: Aid approximately 700,000 Palestinians displaced during the 1948 conflict.

- Operations: Gaza, West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan.
- Services: Education, health, relief and social services, microfinance, emergency assistance.

SOUTH CHINA SEA



CONTEXT

- The Philippines and Vietnam have signed agreements aimed at avoiding incidents in the South China Sea.
- These agreements also aim to broaden cooperation between their coast guards.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

- The South China Sea is a significant maritime region through which \$3 trillion of ship-borne trade passes annually.
- China claims almost the entire South China Sea, leading to disputes with other claimant countries.

- The Philippines and Vietnam have competing claims over some parts of the South China Sea.

LOCATION

- The South China Sea is bordered by the Taiwan Strait to the northeast, Taiwan and the Philippines to the east, Borneo to the southeast and south, and the Asian mainland to the west and north.

DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

- The South China Sea has been a point of contention among Southeast Asian countries like China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, and Taiwan for centuries.

- The primary areas of dispute are the Spratly Islands and the Paracel Islands.
- Central to China's claim is the "nine-dash line," a U-shaped boundary that encompasses approximately 90 percent of the South China Sea, based on maps from the 1940s.

By the Officers,
For the Officers